

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP86B00269R000100130106-9

13 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Here is the exact quotation from Walter Winchell's telecast-broadcast last night at 9 o'clock over the American Broadcasting Company's network:

"The White House: At the request of General Mark Clark the White House asked the FBI to investigate certain top personnel at Central Intelligence."

Herewith also is Doris Fleenon's column in the WASHINGTON EVENING STAR Friday, June 10, quoting Mr. Hagerty.

The Director spoke to Gen. Christiansen on this on 14 June and was advised by Christiansen that he knew nothing about it.
Enclosure JSE 6/15/55

ST [Redacted]

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP86B00269R000100130106-9

DORIS FLEESON

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP86B00269R000100130106-9

Clan Spirit of Crusade's 'Team'

Administration Accused of Taking Itself Too Seriously, Lacking Sense of Humor

WASHINGTON STAR
JUN 10 1955

The question has been put to President Eisenhower whether the administration has or has not interfered with the social relationships of his people with reporters. The President laughed and referred the question to his press secretary, James C. Hagerty.

Mr. Hagerty concedes that "four or five" top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency have been warned to be careful in their contacts with reporters. The warning, he said, followed publication of a report which the President thought should not have been published.

It is no secret that hot-tempered calls from the President to the Pentagon about such matters have been fairly frequent. To this extent, he is military-minded.

Perhaps he is right; only full knowledge of each incident would tell. Perhaps also he harks back to his halcyon years as supreme commander when he and all that he did were protected from public view in a manner forever denied a United States President.

The President's ill-timed habit of going through channels is happily followed by his

business-minded administration. Virtually all his top appointees are from big corporations whose motto is: "Does Macy's tell Gimbel's?" They brought here the attitude that the Government is just another corporation, only bigger; that the new corporation's problems are strictly the new corporation's affair.

They try with considerable success to present a united front to those nosey reporters and they seem to feel that the natives are hostile. For example, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, jr., took a fancy to Georgetown, but her husband, now Undersecretary of State, vetoed her on the ground that too many New Dealers live there.

Since they are so much the same kind of people, their clan spirit was inevitable. Less attractive is the conviction they often display that somehow they and their President are not just preferable to their predecessors but inherently nobler. Their lack of humor about themselves and the very human business of politics is sometimes quite

A reporter who tried to jest with Secretary of the Navy

Thomas about the wonderful asset which went with his job, the yacht Sequoia, was sternly told: "In this administration we use the Sequoia strictly for business."

Republican politicians complain almost as much as reporters about "the team" but less publicly. One of them says that if the effort to make him feel like a waterboy was a conscious one he could fight back better. They feel forced to conceal their unhappiness but they secretly enjoy Senator Knowland's refusal to join in the chorus of adulation for the President.

It may be that "the team" is more efficient about the public's business. Most politicians doubt it. What the London Economist calls so aptly, "the juice of human personality" is missing and the President is insulated from a give and take of conflict and opinion that would give him a far better perspective on his work and his people.

Politics is not a job but a way of life. It has to be lived with all kinds of people, including those who have rung doorbells, taken their lumps in losing political fights and learned how to scent situations which cannot be written on paper. This atmosphere does not now exist in Washington.

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP86B00269R000100130106-9